

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on December 28, 2005.

Claims 5, 9, 13, and 17 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-18 remain pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Webb (U.S. 6,542,371). Applicant does not admit that Webb is indeed prior art and reserves the right to swear behind this reference at a later date. Nevertheless the Applicant believes that the pending claims are distinguishable from the reference for at least the following reasons.

The rejection states that “Webb discloses a high thermal conductivity heat transfer pad comprising all of the applicant’s claimed and disclosed limitation of the instant invention.” Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons. Webb appears to show a carbon fiber fabric 10 with threads that are “woven together in a substantially orthogonal pattern (column 3, lines 11-12). Webb also appears to show a matted or felted fabric with a more random pattern. However, Applicant is unable to find a distribution of carbon fibers suspended within a matrix material in the Webb reference. Applicant is further unable to find a distribution of carbon fibers within a viscous matrix material wherein orientation and location of carbon fibers relative to each other are movable upon flow of the matrix material. Applicant is further unable to find a number of carbon fibers with a substantially random orientation in three dimensions within a non-adhesive viscous matrix material.

Applicant respectfully maintains that the term “suspended” as added to claim 1 distinguishes the claim from the Web patent as argued in the September 28, 2005 Amendment and Response. The present Office Action indicates that Applicant’s argument was not found to be persuasive. Applicant has not amended claim 1 at this time to preserve the right to an appeal.

In an effort to move the present application forward towards allowance, claims 5, 9, 13, and 17 are amended. In contrast to Webb, claim 5 as amended includes a distribution of carbon fibers within a viscous matrix material wherein orientation and location of carbon fibers relative to each other are movable upon flow of the matrix material. Further in contrast, claim 13 as

amended includes suspending a number of carbon fibers within the non-curable viscous matrix material wherein orientation and location of carbon fibers relative to each other are movable upon flow of the matrix material.

Further in contrast, claim 9 as amended includes suspending a number of carbon fibers with a substantially random orientation in three dimensions within the non-adhesive viscous matrix material. Further in contrast, claim 17 as amended includes conducting heat through a thermal conduction material, wherein the thermal conduction material includes a substantial volume fraction of viscous thermal grease material with a distribution of carbon fibers suspended in a substantially random orientation in three dimensions within the viscous thermal grease material.

Support for the claim amendments can be found in several locations in the specification, including page 9, lines 22-25. Among other distinguishing features, carbon fibers suspended within a matrix material provide an advantage of allowing both fibers and matrix material to be spread, in contrast to a pre-made fabric where orientations and locations of fibers are not movable. Additionally, Figure 3, illustrates one embodiment where fibers are randomly oriented in three dimensions as described on page 8, lines 14-17.

Because the Webb reference does not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC § 102(e) rejection is not supported. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested with respect to claims 1-18.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Serial Number: 10/672,121

Filing Date: September 26, 2003

Title: SHORT CARBON FIBER ENHANCED THERMAL GREASE

Assignee: Intel Corporation

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Dkt: 884.465US2 (INTEL)

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23rd day of February, 2006.

Name Amy Moriarty

Signature 